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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

FEBRUARY 10th, 1977, ISSUE No.4

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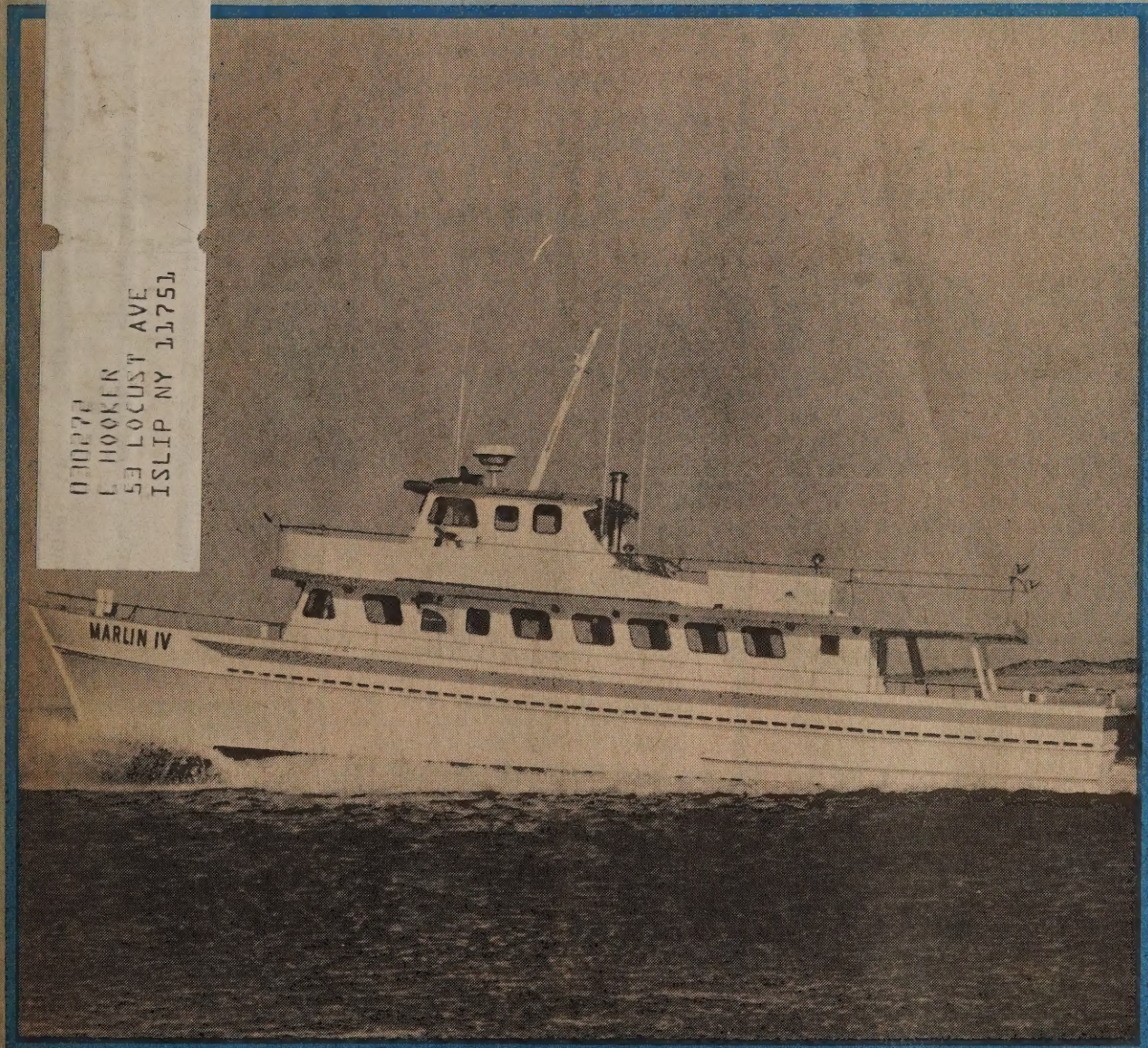

★ ROD BUILDING ISSUE ★

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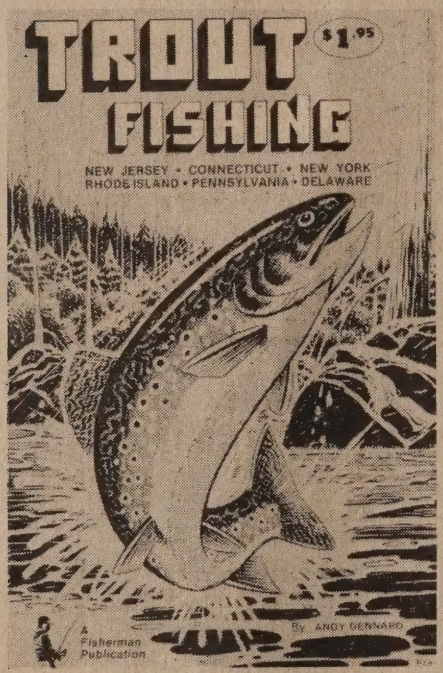

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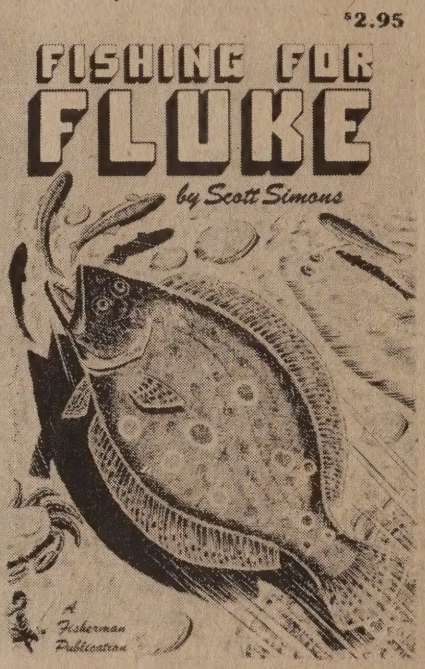

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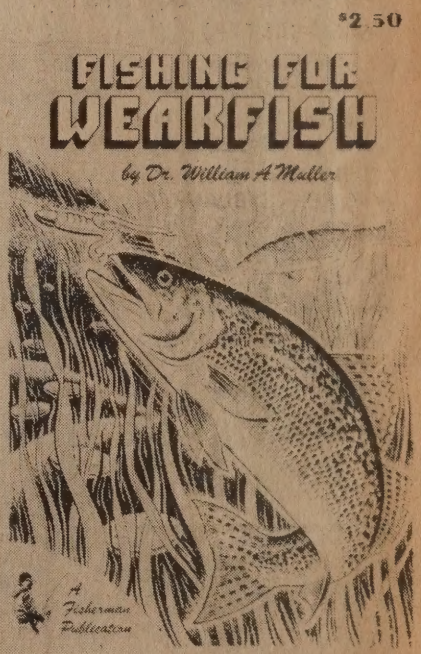

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The FISHERMAN

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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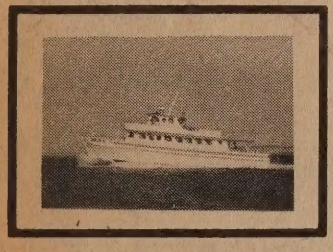

The latest brand new boat in the area to rate a cover of The Fisherman is Captain Richard Rade's brand new all wood "Marlin IV." Richie's new baby is 80 feet long with a 23 ft. beam and has a cushioned lounge, snack bar, stainless steel heated rail and heated cabin. Power comes from 3 V-8 diesels pumping out 1100 horses. Happy sailing, Captain Rade.

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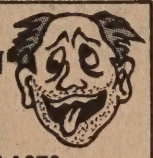

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From the Editor's Head

Checking the Crystal Ball

We are not taken to making predictions. In fact, we shy away from future fondling because crystal gazing is not founded in science and conclusions based upon such tentative speculation are usually nothing more than emotional well-wishing.

Still, when science and quasi-science make a sound impression, we are quick to sniff about in search of meaningful relationships. Thus, we will make a prediction at the end of this editorial and may King Neptune and Allah be with us!

But first the topic. Every place that we travel anglers ask, "What is happening to the striped bass fishery?" The same question reverberates across the pages of fishing publications. Numerous theories have been advanced in the hope of explaining the "why" of it all, but all hold out the hope of a reversal. The theories run the gamut: P.C.B. poisoning, changing weather patterns, offshore oxygen depletion, declining bait populations, overharvesting, sludge dumping, and kepones are among the most popular problems cited.

Usually, many factors must gel together in specific ways to produce a successful year-class of fish. Still, it is often true that a single factor may be the most important. Some prophets have suggested that P.C.Bs may affect striped bass fecundity or destroy spawning instincts and the memory of migration. These ideas may be true but if they are they should still not prevent successful year-classes. Early returns of P.C.B. levels in sampled fish show no correlation between the size of the fish and the level of P.C.B.s. Thus, high and low levels of the chemical are found in fish of all sizes. Therefore, there are plenty of stripers with insignificant contamination capable to sire future generations. Then too, intense harvesting, sludge dumping, and changing weather patterns have been part of the picture for decades, centuries and beyond!

There must be another explanation! I was riding in the car a few weeks ago, listening to the radio, and I caught most of a short spot on C.B.S. radio called "Barnes Storming" with Gordon Barnes. Now Mr. Barnes is a noted meteorologist and among his better credits is the discovery of the jetstream which steers our weather from place to place. Mr. Barnes was attempting to explain this winter's unusual cold. He made the point that there are single, double, and triple sunspot cycles corresponding to intervals of eleven, twenty-five, and thirty-five years.

As Mr. Barnes was quick to point out, one need not be skilled in higher mathematics to realize that at some point in time single, double, and triple sunspot cycles will occur simultaneously—or thereabouts. According to Mr. Barnes, we have just emerged from such a period.

Let's forget about the implications of sunspot cycles to weather, although weather patterns may themselves shape the cycles of fish. Instead, let's correlate Mr. Barnes' sunspot information to other points of view on the subject that have been previously offered.

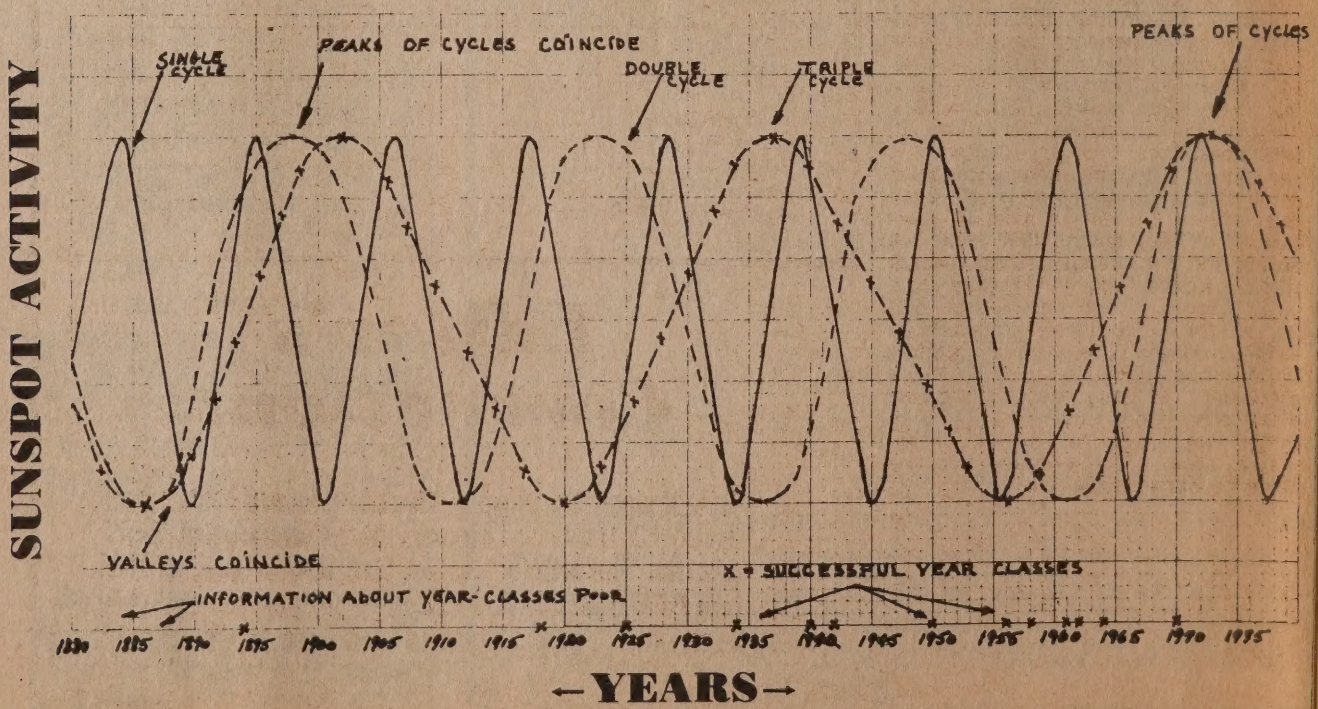
In May 1973, Hal Lyman and Frank Woolner published "The Light That Kills" in the Salt Water Sportsman. They discussed the theory that good to excellent year-classes of striped bass coincide with periods of low sunspot activity for the most part. Low sunspot activity lapsed the time between the early 1960's and 1970's. Thus, there were three (3) excellent year-classes of bass in the 1960s and one in 1970.

Some scientists and laymen alike applauded the need to investigate the theory while skeptics doubted. Nonetheless, the theory has worthy substance yet it has not been deeply investigated, for the usual reasons: lack of funds, lack of government interest, counter-productive self-saving accusations, and political haggling.

We're back at the same old stand! That is, we need more marine research. Oh, you can throw up your hands and vilify scientists' demands for research as self-serving, but baby that's how the modern world became the technological, advanced, affluent, and relatively healthy place we live in. Without a data base we can only guess, and guesswork is often dangerous! Nonetheless, in the absence of a strong data base, let's make what we think are some reasonable correlations and do a little guesswork.

First, I'm betting that high sunspot activity has negative

APPROXIMATIONS OF SUNSPOT CYCLES


SUNSPOT ACTIVITY
SINGLE CYCLE
PEAKS OF CYCLES COINCIDE
DOUBLE CYCLE
TRIPLE CYCLE
PEAKS OF CYCLES
VALLEYS COINCIDE
INFORMATION ABOUT YEAR-CLASSES POOR
X = SUCCESSFUL YEAR CLASSES
1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975
←YEARS→

effects on life; maybe via ultraviolet radiation or maybe something else.

Second, we need to investigate this and other theories carefully.

Third, how do we explain simultaneous poor year-classes for the Hudson River, Chesapeake, and west coast populations of striped bass? That's right! Lost amidst the east coast hoop-la about P.C.B.s is the fact that there has not been a successful year-class of striped bass on the west coast in several years either.

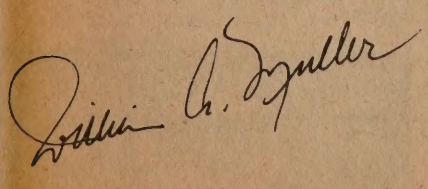
Fourth, cycles in striped bass abundance are nothing new. Bass fishing was atrocious at the turn of the century and there were no nuclear powerplants or PCBs at that time. Seventy to seventy-seven years have passed since that time. It so happens that the time periods of the three sunspot cycles last coincided at about the turn of the century. (See graph). The graph is an approximation because actual sunpot cycles are somewhat irregular. However, over the long haul the irregularities even out and the graph has relevance. Note that the last time the three cycles coincided was around the turn of the century and that the Xs on the bottom, representing successful year-classes of striped bass, coincides with either the slopes or valleys of the curves. Note the correlation of successful year-classes and the valley for the double sunspot cycle.

Fifth, we must be concerned about powerplants, P.C.B.s, kepones and habitat destruction. My comments here should not be interpreted to mean that I feel all's rosy with the marine environment. But, are these the reasons for recent poor year-classes of striped bass?

In May 1973 The Salt Water Sportsman predicted that there would not be a major year-class of striped bass until after 1975. They were right on the money and we compliment them!

What of the future? This editor notes that we will experience declining sunspot activity for all cycles during the next several years. Therefore, I predict a major year class of striped bass in 1977 or 1978 and perhaps two (2) or three (3) good spawnings. Thus, by 1980 or 1981 we should experience good fishing for small bass. Furthermore, based upon this concept I predict a massive year-class of stripers around 1998. Whether or not the fish frequent those haunts where we expect them will depend, to a large degree, on the abundance and distribution of bait. The protection of striped bass habitats is of the utmost importance, because none of these predictions can come true if there are no viable spawning grounds.

Well, my neck is fully extended, and it's a little uncomfortable, but the evidence warrants the risk!



KRAZY KAPTIONS

"_____

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How to Play "KRAZY KAPTIONS"

Just make up a humorous *Krazy Kaption* for the cartoon pictured above and send it to *The Long Island Fisherman.* Entries will be judged by the staff of The Fisherman, and the person submitting the winning caption will win $20 worth of assorted fishing tackle and junk.

A new *Krazy Kaptions* will appear in the second issue of each month, along with the winning *Krazy Kaption* for the previous month. So send in YOUR *Krazy Kaption* today! Just cut out and mail your entry to:

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I belong to the _____ fishing club.

Editor's Correction:

In last week's edition of The Long Island Fisherman issue # 3, there was an error in the weekly SurfSide column. The article "76—A Bad Scene" was written by FRED SCHWAB, and John Fritz was erroneously given the by-line. Our apologies to both Fred & John for this error.

Scott S.

CHUM LINES

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Smithtown Junior Auxiliary for the Help of Retarded Children, in hopes you may wish to assist us.

The Smithtown Junior Auxiliary is a youth group comprised of approximately 70 members between the ages of 13 and 23 who provide direct service to over 200 retarded friends in the community as well as the residents in the local institution.

All of our members reside in the Smithtown Township which has many fishing areas that are easily accessible. On several occasions we have taken our special friends fishing but these trips have been infrequent and limited in number because of the shortage of the necessary fishing equipment.

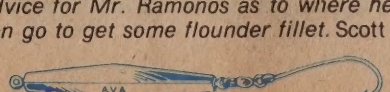
We wondered if you could possibly assist us by printing a letter or placing an ad asking your readers to support our efforts by donating any used equipment available. This would enable us to introduce more of our special friends to the learning experiences and the joys of fishing. Any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated by the teens. **Ellen Glasser, Advisor, Smithtown Junior Auxiliary, 11 Greenwich Road, Smithtown, N.Y.**

The Long Island Fisherman has donated about $50 of fishing lures to the cause. Any clubs or individuals out there who can lend a hand? Scott S.

WANTS FLOUNDER FILLETS SHIPPED TO FLORIDA

This last letter to the L.I.F. was, if there was any way that I could get some flounder sent down to Florida in the most reasonable price range. I also stated that the nearest airport is Gainsville. You wouldn't believe it but I just can't seem to get any flounder fillets like back home. I had a beauty of a flounder spot at Mastic Beach when we lived in East Islip. Down here everything is a fillet of fish, but flounder, forget it. I would appreciate it very much if you or any one can help me out on this. I would like to have at least 10 pounds of flounder shipped at the lowest rates I can get. Boy I would sure enjoy flounder fillets. Thank you. **Mr. A. Ramones, 6407 S.E. 108th St., Belleview, Fla. 32620.**

This one really has us stumped. Maybe some of you readers have some advice for Mr. Ramonos as to where he can go to get some flounder fillet. Scott S.



CLUB NEWS

LIKED SLIDE SHOW

The members of the Glen Cove Anglers Club wish to thank you very much for the very enjoyable evening you gave them at our January meeting with your striped bass slides and lecture. You were very interesting and informative and the best guest we have ever had. We hope you will visit us again. **George Miller.**

FORMING NEW SURF CLUB

Ten surf fishermen of the now defunct Striper Surf Club are seeking to form a new active surf club. They are looking to have a membership of approximately 30 to 35 fishermen. Anyone who is interested can contact Ed Wolfe at 212 327-8715 evenings or Ken Hejducek at 212 978-2617 days.

WANT TO JOING A SURF CLUB

I would like to begin surf fishing this season with a surf club. I am a beginner at this type fishing. Could you please assist me in this area. **Michael Fasanella 74-39 220 st., Bayside, N.Y. 11364.**

****

I was reading your article Chum Lines and you mentioned that if you wanted to join a fishing club, just send your name and address to the Fisherman. I've been looking to join a club for a long time and didn't know how to go about it. Especially now that I recently bought a boat, so here's my name and address. **Hank Tiedemann, 421 Nevada Street, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757.**

WANTS TO JOIN A CLUB FOR COUPLES

Is there any such thing as a fishing club for couples? My girlfriend and I would like to join such a club and fish together with other couples, but have found that many clubs are for men only. Would you please print this letter so that clubs that accept couples can read it and contact me direct? **Joseph Schmidt, 393 Linden Street, Brooklyn, 11237.**

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB SETS PLANS FOR 1977

Al Pulcino, newly elected President, announced his plans for the coming year. It includes the 38th Annual Awards Dinner-Dance to be held at the Bellport Country Club; largest fish-of-the-month awards throughout the year; Club fishing derbies monthly commencing in April; a Club picnic and a special gala ladies night for members and their families and friends; and a club casting tournament.

Also elected to office were, Cheryl Dippel—1st Vice Pres.; Robert Boudreau—2nd Vice Pres.; Carl Dippel—Treas.; Caroline Wolfson—Recording Sec'y; Ray Terman—Financial Sec'y; William Rockwell, Jim Ray and Sol Levine—Directors.

Local fishermen interested in our activities may write for further information to P.O. Box 808, Patchogue, N.Y. 11772.

ATLANTIC ANGLERS ELECT 1977 OFFICERS

The Atlantic Anglers of Massapequa elected officers for the 1977 year at their last meeting on January 19th, 1977. Those members were:

Jim Nolan for President, Phil Bocketti for Vice President, Dominic Andreana for Treasurer, Dan Viafore for Recording Sec'y, and Vic Consiglio for Corresponding Sec'y.

New members are welcome. The Atlantic Anglers is a fishing club open to new members. Meetings are held at the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month starting at 8:00 P.M.. The meetings are held at Hagan's Inn, 4225 Merrick Road, Massapequa, N.Y., just west of Hicksville Road.

Dues are nominal, fishing is the subject. Interested fishermen either write or call (after 6 P.M.) membership chairman, Jim Walters, 458 Broadway, Bethpage, N.Y. 516 WE 5-3956.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS ELECT '77 OFFICERS

35 members of the Huntington Angler's Club braved the zero temperature to attend the regular meeting on Jan. 17th at the VFW, 210 W. Pulaski Road in Huntington Sta. at which time a lecture and showing of slides by Byron H. Young was enjoyed. Young is a Conservation Biologist of the DEC of Stony Brook. This show was on the tagging and migration of striped bass, plus a talk on PCB which was enjoyed by all the members. Also at the meeting was the nomination and election of officers for '77 which are:

President—Jon Petraitis; Vice Pres.—Joe McMendman Sr.; Recording Sec'y—George Valentine; Corresponding Sec'y—Dan Marro; Treasurer—John Stone; Sgts. at arms—John Kulju, Allan DiNicola and Bd. of Directors—Mike Macchiaroli, Joe Locurto and John Tarlen.

Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

LIFE SPANS

THE LIFE SPANS OF FISHES cannot be thought of in the same terms as man or for that matter most any species. The care of the young that is so generously afforded to mammal juveniles is virtually non-existant among fishes.

SURE, THERE ARE SOME tropical fishes that retain their young until they hatch from the eggs, but this only protects them until that stage. Beyond that point, however, most live-bearers will not hesitate to eat their own young!

SOME SHARKS ALSO BEAR their young alive but there is no parental behavorial interaction beyond birth.

THERE ARE ALSO SOME fishes that do provide some degree of care for the newly hatched fry. Many of you may have seen angel fish fan their eggs and herd the fry around a home acquarium. This protection does increase the chances of survival for the young, but these fish will spawn a relatively small number of eggs.

BUT WHAT OF THE THOUSANDS of species of marine fish that disperse millions of eggs? Prior episodes of **Fish Talk** have described how cod and striped bass release millions of eggs. Do they care for these eggs or for the young that hatch from them?

THEY DO NOT! Furthermore, that explains in part why they lay so many eggs. The percentage of loss is incredible! However, the "excess" provides food for many countless living things and thus the chain of life, or food-chain, is continued.

THIS IS NATURE'S STRATEGY: Overproduction, predation, natural selection and the maintenance of species at a high level of adaptation. It's been working well for 3.3 billion years!

ANYWAY IT IS USELESS to discuss the life spans of these fish in conventional terms. We must put ourselves into the scheme of marine trophic dynamics. If we do this, then we can begin to understand its full importance.

HOW MANY JUVENILE STRIPED bass, for example, do you think will survive to adulthood out of perhaps four million eggs that are released by a mature large female? Four million, one million, 100,000, 10,000, one thousand? If you picked any of these, you're not likely to be correct.

WE MUST FIRST DEFINE the parameters of this discussion! If any of the young are to survive the environmental conditions of the habitat where the fish are spawning must meet their needs. If the temperature is too cold or too warm, if the salt content is too high or too low, if pollution has made the habitat toxic, or if some other variable is out-of-sink, the fish may not even attempt to spawn. Even worse the females may never ripen.

THINK ABOUT YOUR TROPICAL fish tank. If you have ever tried to breed egg-layers you know that you must structure their environment so that the fish will ripen and spawn. What makes you think that nature doesn't do the same thing. And if nature fails one year?

THEREFORE, LET US assume that the environmental conditions are acceptable for spawning. Further, we must assume that they do not change and become unacceptable once the eggs are released. If all these conditions are met, what happens to the eggs?

MANY OF THE RELEASED eggs will not be fertilized because the release of the sperm (milt) is also a random process. True, it is released in the vicinity of the female but many of the eggs may not be approached by sperm.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE EGGS that are fertilized? The answer is very predation! The eggs are so small that almost any animal can eat them and they do.

BACTERIA AND FUNGI also get into the act. Weak eggs are attacked and begin to decay.

FINALLY, THE EGGS HATCH. But the young fish are small and still attached to the yolk sac of the egg. They swim with difficulty and they are eaten by the millions.

THOSE FRY WHICH HAVE not developed properly or which are weak may exhaust themselves and die while others are attacked by parasites.

JUVENILE STAGES ARE the most sensitive to disease, predation, and fluctuations in the environment. A sudden cold snap may destroy millions.

THOSE THAT REACH THE fingerling stage have a better chance. They swim well and their numbers have been so heavily diminished by other factors that predators lose interest since they may be hard to find. They can hide and they can eat. They begin to grow quickly.

AS TIME PASSES and they become larger, only the strongest have survived. Their chances for survival improve daily.

BY THE TIME THEY are ten to twelve inches long the most dangerous part of life is behind them.

NOW TO RETURN TO the original question. How long is the life expectancy

(Continued on page 18.)

Surf Side with Fred Schwab

The Challenge

Despite the darkness of a heavily overcast night, the lone angler was well aware of their presence. For what seemed an eternity, but in reality was less then a half hour, he'd been tormented with the knowledge that a sizeable body of fish, in all liklihood striped bass, had moved into the small rip and were actively feeding, but refused to take a lure. To further his annoyance, an occasional tail slap could be heard and judging from the violence of these smashes, he surmised that at least some of the fish were of respectable size.

The bay was quiet on this humid summer night. In fact, earlier, as the angler made his way through the marsh to reach the bar, where he now stood, he clearly heard in the distance, the anguished squeal of some creature. He assumed it to be an inquisitive marsh rat who had probably made the mistake of pawing at one of the many seemingly lifeless crabs stranded in the countless, shallow pools left behind by an already receding tide. Now, as he stood in the back waters of the bay, the only sounds to be heard were the murmur of the ebbing tide as it struggled over the small bar; the "swish" of the angler's rod and splash of the lure on each cast, and of course, the almost continuous movements of the feeding fish as they lunged, rolled and slapped in pursuit of bait which the fisherman couldn't see.

Much to the delight of a squadron of mosquitoes which encircled the angler, the air was still. Despite a liberal coating of insect repellant, he was under constant attack from these miniature vampires, whose numbers seemed to steadily increase. Save for the little rip, there was hardly a ripple on the bay's surface this windless night. The abundant vegetation of the marsh bowed under the accumulated weight of tiny droplets of water being deposited by the moisture laden air.

The man was an experienced bass fisherman and the reluctance of fish to strike at a lure was always accepted by him as a challenge to his angling skills. Perserverence and the ability to adjust to varying situations are characteristic of a striper sharpie, and this angler qualified as such. He methodically went through the contents of the weather beaten plug bag slung over his shoulder. The retrieval of each of the half-dozen or so casts, which he devoted to each lure, was systematically varied. There were fast, moderate and agonizingly slow retrieves and even these were varied, with some being reeled at a mechanically steady pace and others with a halting or ever-so-slight, jerking action. Though his inventory of artificials was comprised of a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colors, none had caught the fancy of the feeding fish.

Analysis of the situation was uppermost in his mind. So deep in thought was he, that he was unaware of the fact that he was mumbling aloud to himself. Only the mosquitoes penetrated his deep concentration, frequently causing him to grit his teeth, curse in a hissing manner, and swat at his tormentors.

Why...he asked himself, did the fish so completely spurn his offerings? It was obvious that they were feeding and as he had already noticed, there was a total absence of phosphorescence, a factor which when present in these quiet waters meant a fishless night. The flow of water over the small bar produced an excellent rip which enhanced the action of his small to medium sized lures. Whatsmore, he was certain that the dark conditions and turbulence of the rip were sufficient enough to mask the true nature of his lures, thus fooling the wariest of fish into accepting his artificials as real. What then, was the problem?

The angler concluded that the fish were feeding on something which was very small, and that the comparatively large size of those lures which he had tried, were the problem. In recognitio of the fact that there appeared to be number of sizeable fish present, he ha resisted the temptation to try one of th very small lures, brought along on th chance that he might encounter a schoo of weakfish. These lures were equippe with small light weight hooks which wer certainly not meant for the boney an powerful jaws of a striped bass. But h had exhausted all other possibilities an knew that he would regret not trying th one which remained untried.

These light weight tiny surfac swimmers limited the distance of hi casts to less than twenty-five feet, bu under the existing circumstances thi was not an absolutely critical factor sinc the fish were but a few yards from hi position.

His first two casts, retrieved at a ver slow but usually most effective speed fo that particular lure, received no takers However, on the third cast, the lure reeled at an accelerated speed, wa promptly smacked and the fisherma was fast to a school striper, which after brief tussel was beached and gentl released.

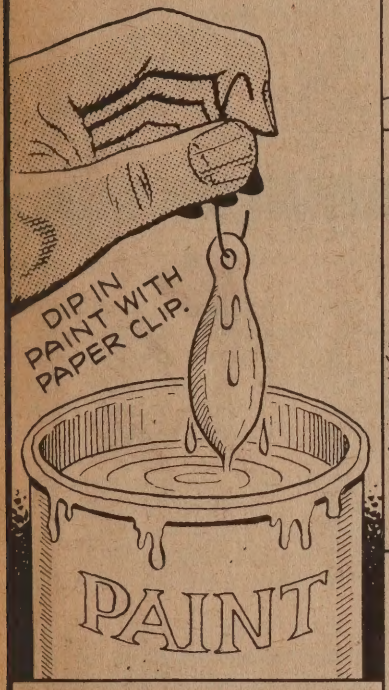
The following cast, also retrieved at a above normal speed, resulted in a joltin strike and the instantaneous scream o his small spinning reel as eight poun mono rapidly disappeared from th spool. At the conclusion of a run whic seemed endless, the fish settled dow apparently gathering strength for

(Continued on page 18

FISHING & OUTDOOR TIPS

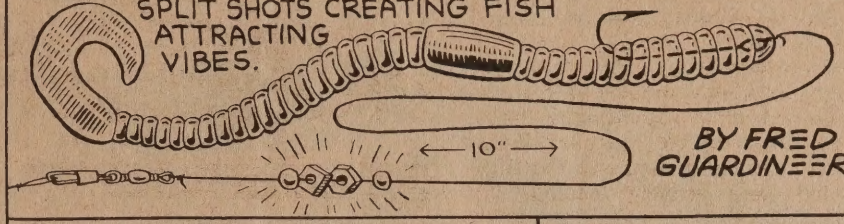
PAINTING SINKERS

A BRIGHT COLOR SUCH AS RED OR YELLOW IS A GREAT ATTRACTION TO FLOUNDERS WHO FEED ONLY IN THE DAY TIME AND ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO COLORS. NOW IS THE TIME TO DO THESE INDOOR TACKLE JOBS.



RATTLE-TYPE LURES ARE VERY EFFECTIVE

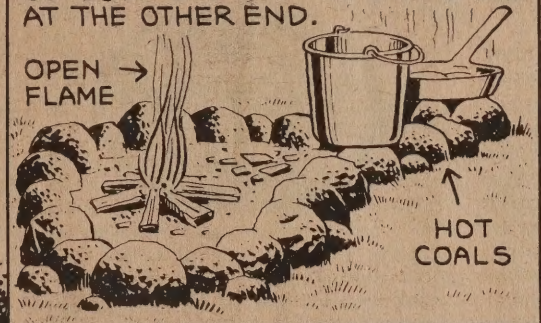
ON MOST FRESHWATER FISH. FOR THIS HOMEMADE VARIETY ALL YOU NEED ARE TWO SMALL SPLIT SHOT SINKERS AND TWO VERY SMALL HEX OR SQUARE NUTS ATTACHED 10 INCHES ABOVE A PLASTIC WORM OR NIGHT-CRAWLER. AS THE BAIT IS RETRIEVED THE NUTS MOVE ALONG THE LINE AGAINST EACHOTHER AND AGAINST THE SPLIT SHOTS CREATING FISH ATTRACTING VIBES.



BY FRED GUARDINEER

A KEYHOLE SHAPED OUTDOOR

FIRE ALLOWS YOU TO COOK ON HOT COALS AT ONE END AND ON FLAME AT THE OTHER END.



GEESE FLYING

OVER A SPREAD OF SILHOUETTE DECOYS SEE NOTHING FROM ABOVE BECAUSE IT'S ONLY 1/4-INCH THICK PLYWOOD. ADD A BODY PIECE AS SHOWN:

TOP VIEW OF AN ORDINARY GOOSE SILHOUETTE TYPE DECOY.

AT RIGHT IS VIEW OF IMPROVED SILHOUETTE DECOY AS SEEN FROM ABOVE BY PASSING GEESE

CUT 1/4-INCH SLOT HALFWAY THROUGH LENGTH OF TOP VIEW FROM HEAD END.

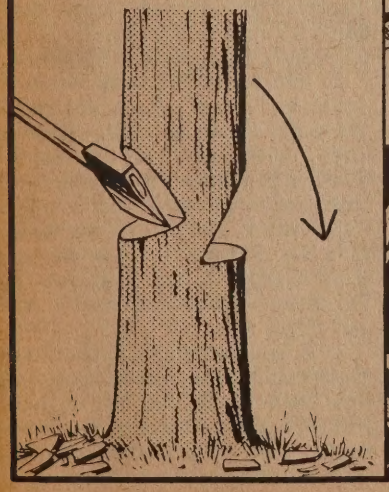
CUT 1/4-INCH SLOT IN THE SILHOUETTE HALF WAY THROUGH AND FIT BOTH TOGETHER.

FISH FACT: FISH ALSO HAVE "BO"

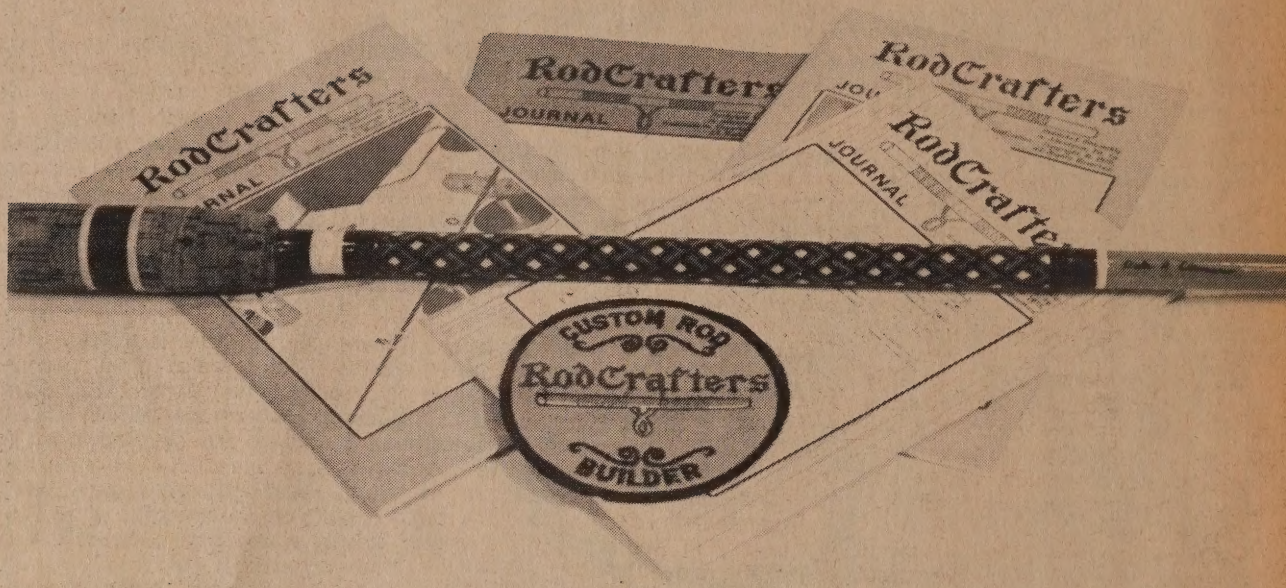
BUT NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE UNCLEAN. THEY GIVE OFF A SCENT THAT CAN BE DETECTED BY OTHER FISH. A BASS FOR EXAMPLE, IS ABLE TO DETECT THE PRESENCE OF MINNOWS WITHOUT ACTUALLY SEEING THEM - AND THE MINNOWS ALSO BECOME AWARE OF THE PREDATOR.

CUTTING FIREPLACE

LOGS TO BEAT THE OIL HEAT RIP-OFF? HERE'S HOW TO NOTCH A TREE SO IT WILL FALL IN A PREDETERMINED DIRECTION.



ROD CRAFTERS



Beyond a doubt, one of the best things to happen for rod builders, and would-be-rod builders, was the formation of an organization known as RodCrafters. Until fairly recently, custom rod building was regarded by many as a secret art known only by a privileged few. Most attempts to learn the tricks of the trade met with mumbled excuses and resistance. It was a lot like trying to raise the anchor with an ultralight rod and two pound test line.

Fortunately, that time is past and rod builders now know that they learn best by sharing. RodCrafters is an international association of custom rod builders, both hobbyists and professionals. It's stated purpose is "to encourage and improve the development of custom rod making as a craft, and to provide recognition for its associates." The organization began with Dale Clemens, author of Fiberglass Rod Making, and a handful of dealers and rod builders. They recognized there was a wealth of excellent "how to" information available and a great thirst for this knowledge.

The heart of RodCrafters is really the organization's neatly packaged bi-monthly publication, the RodCrafters Journal. Here is where the sharing takes place through a constant flow of proven "how to" techniques, methods, and ideas. All of the material comes from the members themselves. Clemens and the staff simply edit and present it in an easily readable, well illustrated fashion. Currently 48 pages, its length has doubled in the past two years, and it will undoubtedly continue to grow in the future.

Articles and tips cover creative design ideas for every conceivable kind of rod as well as instructions on how to make unique rod building tools. There is even an exchange of ideas on how to most effectively sell custom rods, if you are so inclined. Rod repairs are covered, and readers are among the first to learn of new components and materials. Since the Journal is the most comprehensive source of rod building information, it is printed on quality paper for retention as a permanent library.

RodCrafter Associates (as the members refer to themselves) have the benefit of a free technical service on any rod building problems. If the staff cannot answer the question, it is run in the Journal under a regular column titled "Associates Requests." A corresponding "Requests Answered" column will almost always turn up at least on solution from other Associates. Nationa seminars are held in Allentown, Pa. (two day program is planned for March) and smaller regional seminars are hel by interested groups of Associates.

Recognition, besides having an articl published in the Journal, is provided b a handsome gold leaf certificate fo display in shop or den. An eye catchin patch for fishing shirt or vest identifie the wearer as a custom rod builder.

To find out more about becoming a Associate in RodCrafters, you can writ the organization at 1221 Washingto Street, Allentown Pa. 18102. Better yet if you want to take the plunge, send th organization $10 for a year's member ship. Include along with your name and complete address, whether or not you are a hobbyist or a professional, and i the latter, whether you are full time o part time.

It is an exciting organization as evidenced by the tremendous growth. One from which the rod builder, or would-be-rod builder, can learn more in a year than he can from a lifetime of experimenting on his own.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Portrait of a Whiting

I have never met a sinker bouncer who failed to enjoy whiting fishing whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Abounding in teeming numbers wherever found, whiting—or silver hake, if you will—are one of the easiest fish to catch. I'm sure all experienced fishermen will agree when I say whiting seem always willing to bite. I've never found it any other way.

The whiting has other good things going for it, too. It is easily prepared for the pan; its firm, white flesh makes it one of the tastiest of seafoods. It is easy to clean, easy to scale, and when the center bone is removed, it is practically boneless. And who can refuse a smoked whiting?

The whiting (Merluccius bilinearis) is a relative of the cod, just as much so as the red hake (ling), the white hake, the haddock, and the diminutive tom cod. For some reason, though, nature has deemed it necessary to place the whiting in a class by itself.

It is a handsome fish. In fact, the name "winter weakfish" was at one time used as description by many old-timers. Around the Chesapeake Bay areas, one may still hear the whiting called "winter trout."

As with all fish, successful spawning depends on exact water temperatures. This is the trigger needed to start the reproductive cycle. Because the whiting is so wide spread in the northern reaches of the western Atlantic, its egg laying season is protracted and takes place at anytime from June to October.

Spawning begins when water temperatures first approach 55 to 60 degrees. In our area, this is June; therefore, those whiting living further north, in the Gulf of Mexico, for example, must wait until late summer or early fall. Hence, the long season.

Fortunately for all concerned, whiting are prolific—which can be readily believed by the fishermen who catches a hundred a day. Because of this, whiting are extremely important to the commercial fisherman. To meet the heavy demand, tons are quick-frozen and shipped to the mid and far west. The entrails, heads, etc., are used in the preparation of pet foods. Owners of mink ranches throughout the country purchase 50 pound blocks of frozen whiting to feed out to their charges. The annual commercial catch fluctuates, but it is usually around 35 million pounds. What the foreign fishing fleet gets is anybody's guess.

Spawning is accomplished in water ranging from 300 to 1800 feet—which is thought to be a much greater depth than used by other hakes. The eggs are buoyant and when they reach the surface are about 1/25th of an inch in diameter.

Incubation is rapid (48 hours) and when hatched the infants are approximately 1/12 inch long. When a length of ¾ inch is attained, the adult characteristics are readily apparent. The young fish are pelagic, that is, they live on the surface. Here they feed greedily on plankton, reaching a length of 1 to 1½ inches by autumn; they then take to the bottom, joining millions of their brethern.

As noted before, the whiting is indeed a handsome fish. Its body is elongated and compressed. Its head is long, low and flatened above, with rather prominent ridges. Its snout is moderately broad. And as any whiting fisherman can attest, the mouth is large and armed with many sharp, recurving teeth. These are usually in two or three irregular series. The vomer (the boney plate in the roof of the mouth) also contains teeth. The whiting is a predator and once those teeth fasten in some luckless bit of prey, the chances of escape are few indeed.

The lateral line (the line running along the side and length of the fish) is distinct. The scales, while not large, are bigger than those of other members of the cod family. They also do not lie flush against the body as one would expect, but jut out at a slight angle. This type of scale is called deciduous and is not commonly found on fish that live in our local waters.

The two dorsal fins are well separated and follow the pattern of the cod family by containing no spines. The outstanding characteristic about the second dorsal fin is that it has longer rays near the fore and aft portions, giving a sort of scalloped effect. The tail in the adult whiting is strong and slightly notched (emarginated). In the young, the tail is nearly straight. The anal fin is similar to the second dorsal and is placed exactly opposite. The ventral fins are also well-developed; the pectorals, narrow.

While the whiting is considered a hake, it is distinguished from the true hakes by having well-developed ventrals, as noted. These take the place of the thread-like feelers found in the much slower-swimming relatives, the ling for example. The whiting also lacks a chin barbel.

As you can see, nature has done an excellent job on the silver hake, for all this stream-lining provides the high speed needed to capture its prey.

Food consists of any and all fish of suitable size, regardless of species. Squid and an occasional crab also make up part of its diet. I suppose one could say the whiting is highly destructive to other fish, but actually this is all part of nature's master plan to help insure the tender balance without which all life would cease. Surely, the whiting and like predators have never done the damage to our fishery as has the foreign fishing fleet.

Whiting are abundant from the maritime provinces to northern New Jersey. They are also found offshore as far south as the Bahama Islands, but then only in the deepest water there—which can be close to 2000 feet. They seem quite able to adjust to depth, for off Long Island and New Jersey, they are caught from the shoreline to 1800 feet. This latter depth by commercial fishermen of course.

Most party boat fishing is done in depths around 100 feet during fall and winter. But in May, whiting are often found off the shores of Long Island and New Jersey in approximately 40 feet. On winter nights when conditions are right, they will raid the surf line in their never-ending search for sand eels and other forage fish. They return offshore before daybreak.

While whiting have been caught commercially to eight pounds, most of those taken by sportfishermen are between one and three pounds. The average length is probably 14 to 18 inches. Fish over four pounds are rare.

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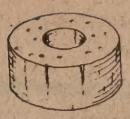
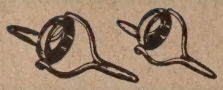
Building A Custom Rod

with Dale Clemens

PART TWO— Guides & Spacing

To get maximun performance from your custom rod you will need to use the proper guides. One consideration is the weight of the guide and the degree of stiffness, or restriction to flexing of the blank. A light rod will have its action destroyed by heavy, restrictive guides. We can roughly rank guides from light to heavy, and from "free" to restrictive, as follows: one foot ceramics, snake, Foulproof, stamped frame ceramics, wire frame, wire frame ceramics and tungsten carbide. Heavier guides in all materials, including roller guides, are not under consideration here, since they are used on boat and trolling rods—not rods for casting.

Another important consideration in guide selection is the height of the guide ring from the blank. To keep distance robbing friction to a minimum, the guide must hold the line away from the blank on any type of rod. On spinning rods the high butt guide keeps the line unfurling from the reel from slapping against the blank. On casting and boat rods it holds the line off the foregrip when fighting a fish. On fly rods, higher guides permit a better "shoot" of the line for casting distance.

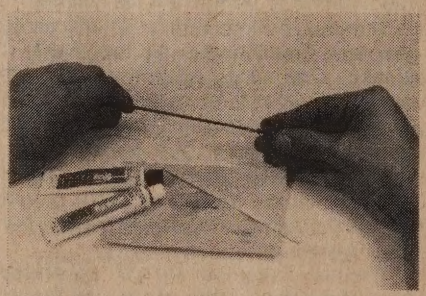
Before wrapping, all guides should be carefully checked and prepared. If the leading edge of the foot is thick, a few strokes with a file will reduce the angle and allow the wrapping thread to climb it more easily. Bottoms and tops of the guide feet need to be absolutely smooth to prevent them from cutting into the blank or thread.

The basic principle of guide placement is to use as few guides as possible in order to eliminate line friction, yet use enough guides to properly distribute the stress along the blank. The number of guides used, then, will always be a compromise between these two.

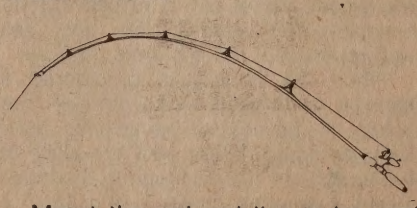
Since each blank flexes a bit differently, there can be no fixed formula for guide spacing. On spinning and casting rods the spacing is also affected by the reel and line used.

The space between guides progressively increases between the smallest and largest guides. Once we determine where the butt guide is to be placed, we can then work out an even progression. For a starting point, locate the stripping (butt) guide on fly rods 28" to 34" from the bottom end of the rod. On spinning rods of up to 8 feet, use 31" to 36" from the end of the rod, proportionately more on longer rods. On casting and boat rods you will have to attach the tip-top and reel, and run line through the temporarily taped-on guides. By moving the butt guide back and forth, find the point farthest from the reel where the line will not be pulled against the foregrip when the rod is bent deeply, as when fighting a fish.

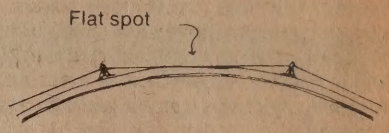
Lay the rod on a flat surface and place the butt guide next to it in the location determined. Lay the smallest guide from 4" to 5½" below the tip-top. Place the remaining guides in an increasing progression between these two, an approximation by eye is adequate, since you will be making further adjustments. Use masking tape to tape both feet of each guide to the blank. Make sure the guides are along the line you earlier marked when locating the spline.



At this point you mount the tip-top. Ferrule cement, which melts from heat, was traditionally used. However, unless you are very careful, the heat can melt or loosen the plastic shock absorbing ring on ceramic tip-tops. Most rod builders now use a daub of 5 minute epoxy glue. If the tip need later be replaced, heat will break the bond.

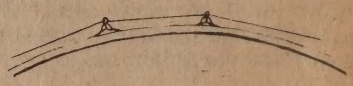


Mount the reel and line to be used with the rod and run the line through the guides. Tie the line to an immovable object on the floor and lock the reel. Have someone hold the rod so the guides are on top (upside down for a spinning rod) and pull up on the rod until a maximum, workable casting arc is created in the rod.



Guides too far apart

Check the line to see that it goes from guide to guide without touching the blank. If it touches you have a "flat spot" that needs to be eliminated by moving the lower guide closer to the upper guide.



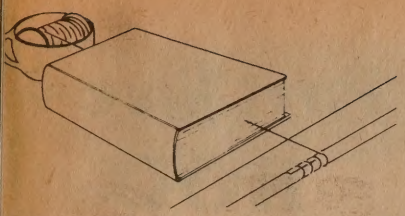
Guides moved closer

Working from the tip back, move guides as needed to eliminate any flat spots. This distributes the stress equally for this particular blank, and eliminates distance robbing line slap when casting.

As a final test check the rod for about 15 minutes. If you detect any line slap between reel and butt guide, or if the line is cutting into the tape holding the butt guide, move the guide about an inch at a time. If you cannot eliminate slap, you need a higher butt guide or one with a larger ring. The correct point is reached when maximum casting distance is achieved. You now have fine tuned the rod for perfect guide spacing.

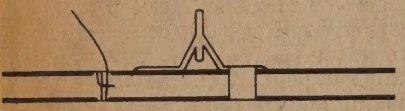
Wrapping

To adjust the tension on the thread, place the spool behind an open book, pull off a few feet of thread, and close the book. Put the spool in a coffee cup to keep it from rolling. Additional tension can be provided by piling on more books. Use only enough thread tension to hold the guide feet firmly against the blank, and allow for slight adjustment in the position of the guide later. Wrapping thread stretches and applies tremendous pressure if wound too tightly and can

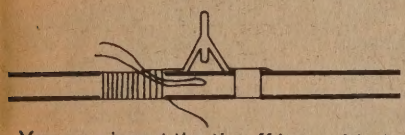


rush a rod blank.

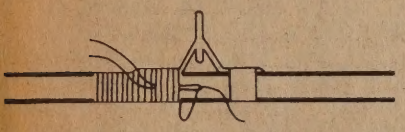
Prepare a "tie-off loop"—about six nches of slightly heavier thread or nonofilament of 10 to 12#. Have this and sharp razor blade handy before you tart actual wrapping. Remove the tape rom the one foot you will wrap.



Start the wrap ahead of the guide by vinding the thread around the rod and over itself. You will have to hold the free end against the blank while you rotate he rod. Two or three winds will secure t, and after about five or six you can cut off the free end close to the wrap. Keeping the rod level, continue winding up over the guide foot until you are five o eight turns from the finish.



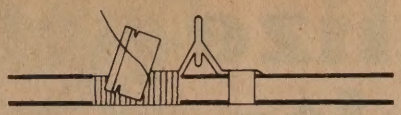
You now insert the tie-off loop with the ends away from the guide ring. Wind the remaining turns over the loop.



Hold the wrap so the thread will not unravel. Cut off the wrapping thread about four inches from the rod. Still holding the wrap, insert this cut end through the tie-off loop. Allow the cut end to dangle freely, but hold the rod and wrap with one hand.

The other end is used to grasp both loose ends of the tie-off loop, and pull the cut of the wrapping thread under the wrap.

Pull the tie-off loop all the way out, drawing the cut end of the wrapping thread with it. Pull this end up tight.



Use a razor blade to trim the end of the thread off as close as possible to the wrap. "Burnish" or smooth the wrap with any small, round object by rubbing it back and forth over the thread to close any tiny gaps between the threads.

Wrapping will progress most easily if you rotate the rod fairly rapidly, allowing the thread to fall into position. Be careful not to let the thread climb on the top of the previous turn. After one foot of a guide is wrapped, turn the rod end for end, remove the tape, and wrap the remaining foot.

Most wraps will look better with a narrow band of contrasting color at each end. These should consist of no more than five to ten turns of thread. Start them up against the guide wrap, placed on your left. Since the wrap will be quite narrow, it is necessary to insert the tie-off loop at the beginning. Hold it in place along with the free end of the thread as you start, and wrap right over top of both. Cut the free end of the thread close to the wrap after three or four turns. Use the tie-off loop to complete the wrap in the same way as the basic guide wrap.

Rods are equipped with an internal fiberglass ferrule which must always be wrapped for added reinforcement. The same basic wrapping technique is used to make various length, decorative trim bands on the butt section.

Another application of the basic wrap is underwraps. This is simply a long wrap placed on the blank before the guide is wrapped on. The guide is centered on top of the underwrap, and wrapped over it. Its use should be limited to heavy duty surf rods and trolling rods, since it stiffens the blank and will destroy the action of lighter rods. Using Size A thread for the underwrap and Size D for the guide wrap will make it much easier to build this wrap, and will reduce the bulk as well.

NEXT WEEK

Part III will discuss finishing and diamond wraps.

WANNA CATCH FLOUNDER?

Read FISHING FOR FLOUNDER

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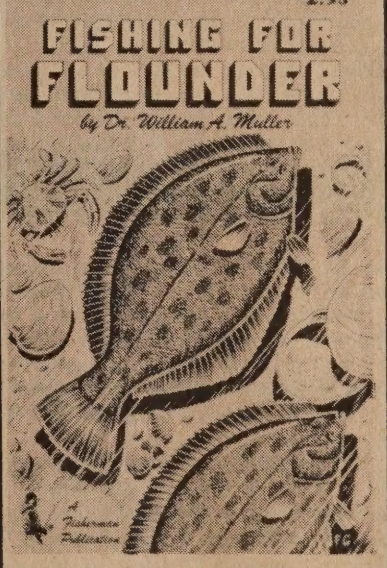

Here it is at last, hot off the presses! The first book EVER to be printed exclusively on techniques for catching the winter flounder. Separate chapters cover topics such as baits to use, rigging-up, scientific information, chumming techniques, how to locate flounder, fishing techniques—all in greater detail than ever before! Also an entire chapter on how to clean and cook this table favorite and an extremely detailed "Where-To-Go" section that provides fishing maps, seasons, hotspots, baits and rigs to use in each area! Ninety-six pages fully illustrated with photographs and artwork by The Fisherman's own Fred Guardineer. Send for your copy today!

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Rationalize for Results

Part Two— ROD BLANKS

by Dick Mermon

With the intervention of fiberglass material as fishing rods, a great number of companies sprang into existance. Leisure equipment was the way this world was heading. Subsequently to 1947, manufacturers have come and gone, each bringing their own particular fishing rod to the field. Yet, there are but three basic manufactured styles left in existance, solid glass fibers, fiberglass material, or matt glass, and unidirectional glass yarn.

Each in its own sense is strong, but they all have their particular faults and should be recognized by the angler using them. Granting that it is not the manufacturing process which causes a fishing rod to become defective at times, but a constant abuse of this material will bring on the malfunction.

Solid fiberglass fishing rods are given that name by the way they are constructed, solid, through and through. There is no hollow center to this rod and could be considered the strongest of the three, but are heavy in weight and its bend or arch is limited to a certain degree.

While there is more physical material involved in construction, the procedure to manufacture a solid blank is a lot simpler in terms of manual labor. That is why their price becomes less costly than that of the other two types. Also there is less waste in solids from twisted tips and flaws in the glass.

Solid glass blanks are manufactured in one continuous process, as though it were rope being produced. As this single diameter, solid tube is manufactured & cured, it passes through a slicing machine, which cuts the continuous rod into required foot lengths. Upon each length cut, the blank is still the same diameter from top to bottom. It then passes into a grinding machine, tapering the tube to its proper butt and tip size. Very little is done by manual labor other than the next procedure which is the placement of the components and finishing the fishing rod itself.

Very rarely is there a manufacturing defect in the solid blank. It is usually placed there somewhere along the line by the fisherman in a form of nick, or fracture. White blanks are very difficult in detecting such hazards, unless the indenture becomes dirty and discolored. This slight fracture will then reveal itself.

An indentation established there by a sharp rap only becomes visible after several seasons of use. Most of the glass fibers are still compact for the strength required. Whereas, in a tubular rod, if the outer wall is fractured, pressure applied upon this wall by a bend may possibly collapse it. Tubular or hollow rods depend upon the hook strength of the walls to keep them from breaking. Solid fiberous rods will sliver break rather than completely snap into two separate pieces.

Pre cut glass cloth is tacked onto a steel mandril before placing it into the rolling machine.

When solid glass rods do part, they form long slender, jagged, exposed fibers. Never test for the possibility of a fracture or indentation with a bare finger. A slight piece of glass yarn into the flesh will disappear from sight. Once imbedded into the finger, it will fester, creating a great deal of discomfort. Even when most of the sliver is extracted, tiny bits may break away and remain.

By placing a knife blade onto the blank and passing it up and down lightly, one can discover any bruises there may be. A tiny amount of epoxy glue placed over the fault, secures the exposed fibers and bonds them in place.

Tubular rod blanks, or hollow glass rods are of course lighter in weight over the solid and sometimes seem to withstand more abuse than firm fiber blanks. This weight is the main feature why hollow rod blanks are manufactured. Also, a hollow rod can be tapered in such a fashion that it will bend to a more suitable degree or "action" as it is called without breaking and still be light in weight. Hollow tubes produce a more parabolic bend with less stress on its fibers because of their stretching power of the non solid bonding.

Matt blanks are constructed from fine fiberglass cloth, impregnated with an epoxy liquid, to form the bond. A predetermined triangular slice of glass cloth is afixed to a steel mandril, or long solid rod and placed into a machine which rolls the cloth onto the mandril, forming the desired blank. It is then wound with clear cellophane tape to hold the material in place on the mandril and placed into a curing unit or oven to harden. Once bonded dry, the mandril is popped from its inner core, and the blank is machined sanded, shedding its cellophane skin. The unfinished tube is then placed into a bath of clear or colored epoxy and permitted to drip dry to a smooth, shiny, rod blank.

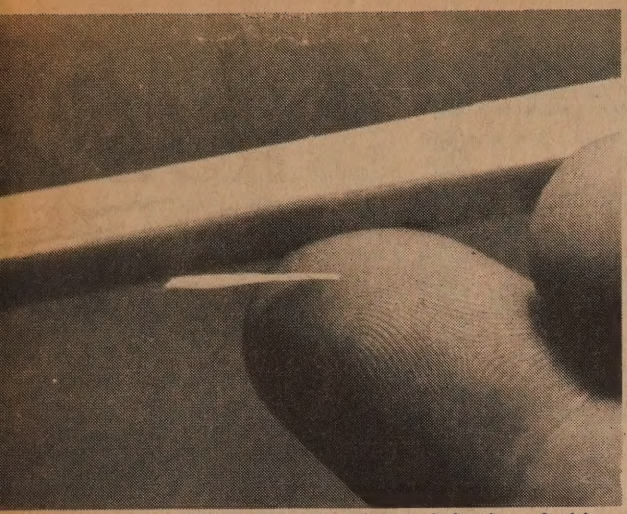
Fishing rods made in the matt cloth process are not quite as heavy as solid. Any slight nick or fracture of the walls will become a problem. When injury is afflicted to the outer wall of the blank it actually breaks the hard fibers, leaving only the inner fiber material to support the tention.

Exposed matter without any coating on the rod should be repaired in the same manner as if it were a solid blank. Liquid glass or epoxy, placed onto the open wound of the rod will be slightly absorbed by some of the exposed fiberous material similar to the action of a sponge, strengthening the torn fibers.

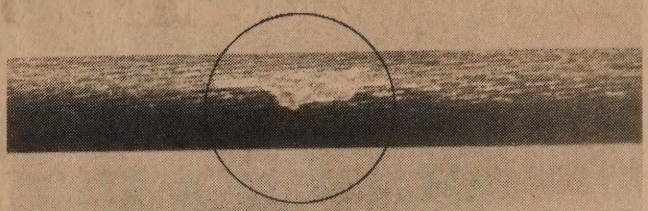
Unidirectional fiber process of making fishing rods was brought into existance by the Shakespeare Company in 1946 and known as the "Howald Process." It was a completely different system of manufacturing over glass cloth or solid fibers. Instead of the construction being solid or hollow matt cloth, a spiral core of epoxy impregnated fiberglass yarn is spun onto a steel mandril its full length. More fiberglass threads are then pulled the entire extent of the mandril over the spiral winding. This yarn has also been first saturated in a bath of white epoxy liquid. Once the longitudinal fibers are in place they are completely wound by a clear cellophane tape holding the fibers firmly, about the mandril.

After curing or hardening of the blank takes place, the cellophane tape is taken off by a special process, leaving what is believed to be a sprial wind over the entire blank. Actually it is the indentations of the curing epoxy and the

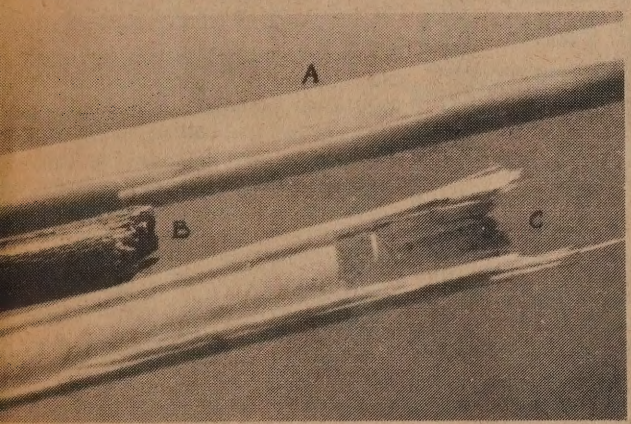
(Continued on page 16.)



Finger testing a blank is looking for an infection. A thin sliver of fiberglass threads as shown, can cause a lasting discomfort of ones finger.



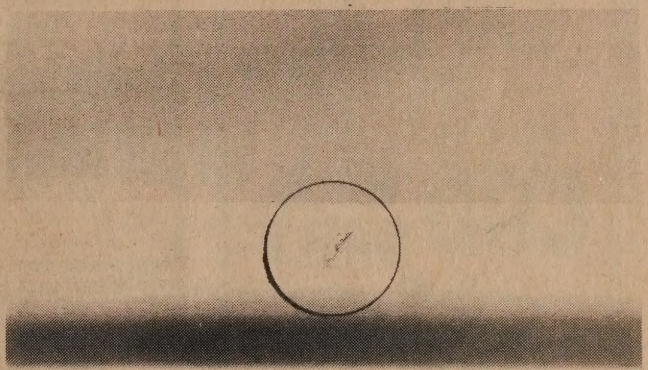
Damage caused by the rubbing of a sinker, lure, or swivel has put this matt glass blank on the critical list for the next season.



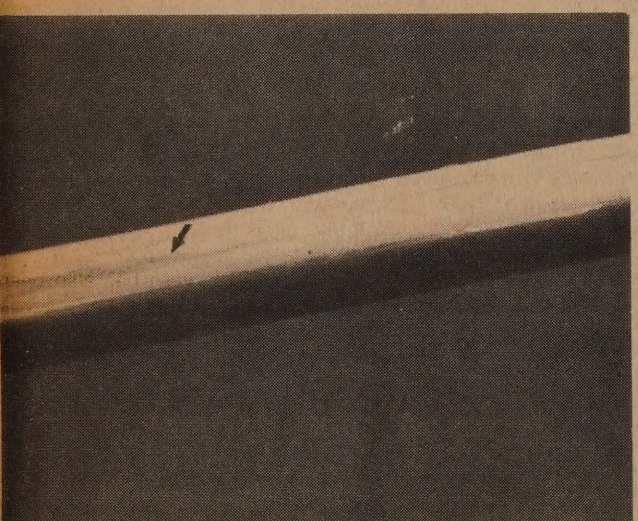
Rod A: Solid glass blank which has ruptured in a long slender, slivers because of the way it is manufactured.

Rod B: Matt or cloth glass has fractured because of an injury deeply embedded into its walls.

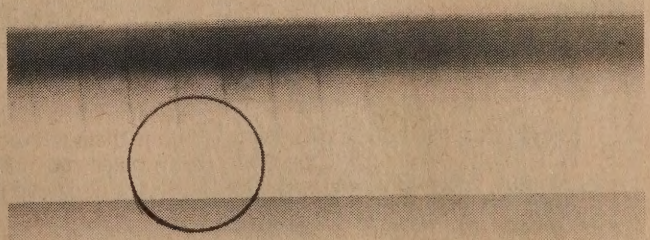
Rod C: Unidirectional fibers and spiral threads show its breakdown because of the nick of the outer wall and has broken clean. The spiral wind of the inner wall still maintains its hoop strength.



A nick placed into a solid glass blank will show up after a seasons use as a dirty spot.



A solid glass blank has fractured possibly because of a small indentation.



A fracture placed into the outer wall fibers will cause a hazard of a unidirectional fiber constructed rod blank. The spiral winds are the marks of the cellophane tape overwinding the vertical glass threads.

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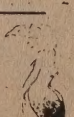

RATIONALIZE FOR RESULTS

(Continued from page 14.)

cellophane tape which leave the ridges. Should the outside wall of this blank be sanded in any way, or tampered with, the glass fibers which run lengthwise, weaken in structure. It has been said, the unidirectional fiber construction blank is stronger, more sensitive, and slightly more expensive than any of the other processes.

Occasionally, there will arise a question of a crack which shows in the outer wall of the blank running lengthwise. This is a stress crack of the outer finish and will not effect the strength of the rod at all. The main fibers (the spiral underwind) are still in complete compactness. This spiral core maintains the hoop strength within, while the vertical threads give in flexibility of the rod. These glass threads do not work against one another but in unison, maintaining a more parabolic bend to a greater extent.

There are hazards which fall upon this blank system as well as the others. If this blank should break it will show where the fault lies as to a inner wall malfunction or an injury to the outer strands. Should the rod collapse from overstrain, it will explode, leaving what looks like the bare braces of an umbrella still attached together. If there has been some sort of injury to the outer wall system, the blank will snap almost clean into two separate pieces.

Wear and abuse becomes very visible to the inspection of this unidirectional construction. Most of the time an injury is caused by a sharp blow from a keen edged object. This leaves a horizontal indentation across the lengthwise fibers and is easily observed, except when one wants to pass it over. Now the damage has been done. Once overstrain is placed on the rod, it will collapse at this point.

Many anglers, especially the salt water people, (including myself for this fault) travel with their rods fully rigged such as a lure, swivels or sinkers attached. The constant vibration of even a large swivel rubbing on any bare rod blank will produce an eroded spot on the outer surface. This becomes a slight weak point of the blank. Now, if it is a lure, lead drail, or sinker doing the rubbing, the abrasion is even greater because of size and weight. Simple little thought and action of removing the hardware will give longer life to a rod. Abusive overstraining of its flexibility will also damage the inner and outer walls of the tube without the knowledge of the angler.

Fiberglass threads can take tremendous misuse and still stand up for more but why not consider having a fishing rod last longer than its life expectancy. With proper care, a little thoughtfulness and less abuse, that fishing rod can and will produce some astonishing results.

MONTAUK

Captain Richie Rade called to say that the new **Marlin IV** is in now and will sail as soon as the ice conditions permit. Richie says the new, all wood boat is a beauty and it really did sound great as he described it over the phone.

CAPTREE

The **Lady Ann** reports that severe icing conditions have scratched recent sailings but that they will commence flounder fishing on the weekend of March 19th. Right now, the boat is getting fixed up inside and out. Captain Neil expects a good flounder season as prior to all the ice, the clam dredges were getting very large patches of big flounder. Also, prior good flounder seasons were preceeded by ice. neil said they were adding a Sytex and an Elac recorder to the arsenal of electronics.

The **Captain Eddie B** called to say that the boat is presently being painted and spruced up for the 1977 chartering season and that Eddie is now accepting charters for the upcoming season. He says that one of his specialties this year will be afternoon weakfish trips.

FREEPORT

Due to the closing in of the ice age, the **Captain Al** will be mainly sailing on weekends only if the weather permits and there are sufficient people down at the boat to sail. There are cod fish out there to be caught, if only mother nature will allow it.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** called to say that he is now available for 1977 bookings on both boats.

Long Islands first and only sea robbin and bergal tournament will be held this year by **Hook Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle**. Entry fee is $3.00 which will include a colorful shoulder patch. What could possibly follow this?

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Larry Krimm of the **Eagle** told us that he sailed on Saturday fishing 12 miles south of the BA buoy where about a dozen whiting and ling per man were hoisted.

The **Helen H** reported some good days this past week and weekend and some slower days, but that the fish are in the deeper holes. Captain Huck said in general the fishing is good and that he is working in the mud hole area. 99'% of the catch is whiting, plus a few ling.

Captain Kevin on the **Dorothy B** reports that he has not been able to sail due to the severe icing conditions but as soon as there is a break in the weather he will be out there doing his thing.

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SurfSide: THE CHALLENGE
(Continued from page 8.)

another outburst. During this shortlived moment of inactivity the angler gained no line, the fish was down current and she was too heavy to try moving in fast water on such light tackle. The second run lasted but an instant, ending when the line went slack. An inspection of the lure revealed that the two sets of tiny treble hooks were crushed, twisted and useless.

Rather than press another of the tiny lures into service, with the same end result, he silently left the water to make a few adjustments. With the aid of a small pair of pliers, brought along for emergencies, he removed, slightly larger but much sturdier hooks from another lure and attached them to the tiny plug. While he knew that larger hooks would reduce the action of the small lure he thought it worth a try. After all, nothing ventured...nothing gained.

This change did not seem to diminish the effectiveness of the lure, or perhaps more correctly, it's appeal to the fish on that particular occasion. The fisherman continued to take fish until the current began to slack-off and the school moved on.

An exhausted but content angler had accounted for seven fine bass. Ranging in weight from about 5 pounds, up to a shade under 30; all but one was released with tender loving care.

He knew that persistance and a bit of ingenuity had turned an evening which had begun in total frustration, into another successful fishing experience. He had met THE CHALLENGE.

As he began the long walk back through the marsh to the place where he'd concealed his car, he knew that he would return to this place on the following night, and unless a dramatic weather change took place, there was a good chance that the bass would be there too. Along with the mosquitoes.

Fish Talk: LIFE SPANS
(Continued from page 7.)

of a fish? If we begin counting when the egg is released the answer is probably a matter of minutes.

BUT IF WE BEGIN ONCE the fish have reached five or six inches the answer is measured in months to years depending upon the species.

IF WE ASK, how many juveniles from a single spawning pair of striped bass or cod reach sexual maturity, the answer is probably one or two.

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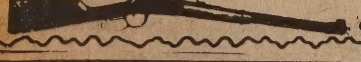

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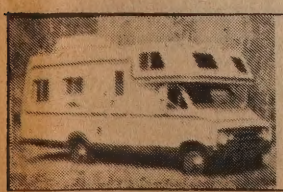

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James Cleary of Roosevelt is the contest winner for Issue #3. Along with his cash prize, James has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Peconic Queen III.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:
426-SCL

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR	12:10	12:28	12:48	1:09	12:47	1:06	1:40	2:09	3:16	3:45	3:34	4:06	12:36	[illegible]	2/10
FRI	1:09	1:31	1:51	2:15	1:43	2:11	2:43	3:17	4:16	4:53	4:34	5:10	1:09	[illegible]	2/11
SAT	2:13	2:41	2:59	3:26	2:48	3:19	3:49	4:26	5:31	6:36	5:40	6:17	2:14	2:43	2/12
SUN	3:21	3:53	4:08	4:37	3:57	4:31	4:55	5:32	7:09	8:02	6:46	7:23	3:17	3:46	
MON	4:27	4:59	5:14	5:41	5:03	5:37	5:57	6:31	8:26	9:04	7:49	8:23	4:18	4:45	
TUE	5:26	5:57	6:12	6:39	6:03	6:32	6:54	7:26	9:24	9:59	8:50	9:19	5:14	5:39	2/15
WED	6:19	6:43	7:05	7:29	6:55	7:21	7:46	8:15	10:17	10:46	9:42	10:10	6:05	6:27	2/16
THUR	7:05	7:28	7:54	8:16	7:42	8:08	8:35	9:01	11:05	11:32	10:31	10:56	6:53	7:13	2/17

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet —0:50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0:50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0:27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0:01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0:48
Long Branch	—0:34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0:18
Shark River Basin	+ 0:27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0:12
Seaside Park	—0:33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5:34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4:37
Waretown	+ 2:33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0:20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2:33
Beach Haven	+ 1:47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0:01
Seven Islands	+ 0:12
Graveling Point	+ 1:05
Mullica River	+ 1:55
Grassy Bay	+ 1:08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0:14
Atlantic City Pier	—0:26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0:12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0:46
CORSON INLET	+ 0:09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0:06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0:02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0:45
Cape May Harbor	—0:02
Rehoboth Beach	—0:07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0:14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0:50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1:25
East Quogue	+ 2:45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1:18
Indian Reservation	+ 3:05
MORICHES INLET	—0:56
Smith's Point	+ 3:28
Harts Cove	+ 1:30
Potunck Point	+ 3:35
Mastic Beach	+ 3:28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0:38
Democrat Point	—0:38
Coast Guard Station	—0:19
Fire Island Light	+ 0:47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3:39
Hecksher State Pk.	+ 3:20
Bay Shore	+ 2:23
Babylon	+ 2:12
Amityville	+ 2:21
JONES INLET	—0:19
Zachs Bay	+ 1:25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2:05
Freeport Creek	+ 0:34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0:06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0:19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0:00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0:38
JFK Airport	+ 0:26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0:08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0:08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0:13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0:03
Northport Bay	+ 0:03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0:10
Smithtown Bay	—0:03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0:05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0:03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0:08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0:08
Herod Point	—0:07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0:19
Horton Point	—0:20
Truman Beach	—0:42
Falkner Island	—0:13
Sachem Head	—0:10
Branford Harbor	—0:07
New Haven Harbor	—0:08
Milford Harbor	—0:07
Stratford	+ 0:27
Shelton	+ 1:36
Black Rock Harbor	—0:03
Saugatuck River	—0:01
South Norwalk	+ 0:10
Greens Ledge	—0:01
Stamford	+ 0:04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0:06
Greenwich	+ 0:02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0:27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0:12
Greenport	+ 1:04
Southold	+ 1:43
New Suffolk	+ 2:26
South Jamesport	+ 2:32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2:33
Noyack Bay	+ 2:05
Sag Harbor	+ 0:59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0:21
Promised Land	—0:14
Montauk Inlet	—0:25
Montauk Point	—1:13
Niantic	+ 1:20
Stonington	—0:33
Noank, Mystic River	—0:23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0:01
Norwich	+ 0:09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1:10
Lyme	+ 1:24
Essex	+ 1:38
East Haddam	+ 2:41
Higganum Creek	+ 2:54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0:10
Execution Light	—0:06
Manhasset Bay	—0:01
Hempstead Harbor	—0:11
City Island	—0:03
Rye Beach	—0:28
Port Chester	—0:09
Mamaroneck	—0:08
New Rochelle	—0:24
Davids Island	—0:02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0:10
Miami Beach	+ 1:17
East Point	+ 0:53
Egg Island Point	+ 0:33
Cape Henlopen	—0:05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0:09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0:33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0:57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0:07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0:46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0:58
Ossining	+ 1:53
Peekskill	+ 2:24
West Point	+ 3:16
Newburg	+ 3:42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0:10
Tiverton	+ 0:21
Beavertail Point	—0:02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0:10
Bristol	+ 0:10
Warren	+ 0:21
Nayatt Point	+ 0:12
Pawtucket	+ 0:21
East Greenwich	+ 0:16
Wickford	+ 0:12
Narragansett Pier	—0:08
Point Judith Harbor	—0:07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0:05
Old Harbor	—0:14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0:44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

2/5	[illegible]	5:20
2/10	7:03	5:26
2/15	6:56	5:33
2/20	6:49	5:39
2/25	6:42	5:45

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
2/18	2/26	2/4	2/11

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	9:45	4:00	10:10	4:30
FRI.	10:45	5:00	11:10	5:30
SAT.	11:35	5:55		6:25
SUN.	12:05	6:45	12:40	7:15
MON.	12:55	7:40	1:30	8:10
TUES.	1:50	8:30	2:25	9:00
WED.	2:40	9:20	3:15	9:50
THURS.	3:30	10:10	4:05	10:35

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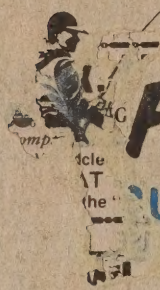

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